

In re Application of Bear et al.
Serial No. 10/677,101

REMARKS

The Office action has been carefully considered. The Office action indicated that claims 26, 27, 29, 31 and 33 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By present amendment, without addressing the merits of any of the rejections, applicants have herein amended the claims such that all of the remaining independent claims contain subject matter indicated as being allowable. Applicants also have amended certain claims to correct errors of a typographical type of nature or for antecedent purposes, and not in view of the prior art. Further, applicants have canceled certain claims to expedite allowance, or because certain claims were redundant and/or inconsistent in view of other amendment(s). Applicants submit that all of the amendments herein are for the purposes of clarifying the claims and/or for expediting allowance, not for reasons related to patentability, and not in view of the prior art.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of otherwise allowable claim 26 (and intervening claim 25), and thus is allowable. The subject matter of new claim 63 corresponds to otherwise allowable claim 37 (and intervening claim 25), and thus is allowable.

The subject matter of new claim 74 corresponds to otherwise allowable claim 29 (and intervening claim 28), and thus is allowable. The subject matter of new claim 85 corresponds to otherwise allowable claim 31 (and intervening claim 30), and thus is allowable. The subject matter of new claim 95 corresponds to otherwise allowable claim 33 (and intervening claim 32), and thus is allowable.

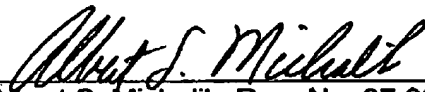
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims (21-24, 29, 34-40, 42-44 and 63-103) contain subject matter indicated by the Office action as being patentable over the prior art of record, and that the application is in good and proper form for allowance. A favorable action on the part of the Examiner is earnestly solicited.

If in the opinion of the Examiner a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (425) 836-3030.

Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this Amendment, along with transmittal and facsimile cover sheet, are being transmitted by facsimile to the United States Patent and Trademark Office in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.6(d) on the date shown below:

Date: June 15, 2006



Albert S. Michalik

3930 Amendment